NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

November 15, 1996

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

NSF INDIRECT COST RATES APPROVED

The Museum has received notice from the National Science Foundation that our indirect rate proposal has been approved. The table below records the new rates and compares them to our old rates. This represents a great deal of work on the part of the Finance staff under the leadership of Grants and Contracts Coordinator, **Lisa Wodis.** If you have questions about the indirect cost rates, please contact Lisa.

Type of Grant	New Rate	Old Rate
On-Site Research	65.80%	67%
Off-Site Research	30.19%	25%
Education and Exhibits	44.39%	35%

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STAFF PROVIDE INSIGHTS ON DEATH AND BIRTH

Several Field Museum scientists participated in this year's Chicago Humanities Festival, held November 8-10 at the Museum and at other cultural institutions throughout the city. Vice President, Academic Affairs and Director **Peter R. Crane** and Adjunct Curator **Pat Herendeen** (Geology) spoke on, "Trapped in Amber." Associate Curator **Alaka Wali** (Anthropology) presented, "Birth Under Duress: stories from Harlem," drawn from her research in Harlem, New York. Curator **Anna Roosevelt** (Anthropology) presented "Passages to the Everlasting Life: Ancient American Rituals."

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

FOSTER TO PARTICIPATE IN FOREST INITIATIVE

Conservation Ecologist **Robin Foster** (Environmental and Conservation Programs) has been asked by the World Resources Institute (WRI) to participate in WRI's major five-year, $5 million "Forest Frontiers Initiative" that will combine on-the-ground research in forest-rich countries and detailed mapping and monitoring of forested areas with efforts to prod timber industries and

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stores to adopt more environmentally responsive policies. Robin will serve as a "regional data reviewer" in WRI's first efforts, a global analysis of massive forested areas that will describe the nature and extent of environmental threats. The program will focus its efforts in Guyana, Congo Basin, Indonesia, Burma and possibly Russia.

SIERWALD SPEAKS ON SPIDERS

Adjunct Curator **Petra Sierwald** (Zoology, Insects) spent last week at the Bishop Museum in Oahu, Hawaii. The Bishop Museum is currently hosting the **Spiders!** Exhibit and invited Petra to participate in a distinguished lecture series held in connection with the exhibit. Petra used her stay to go through the scientific spider collection at the Bishop Museum, which has many specimens, especially from Polynesia. There was also time for a night field trip to Mt. Kaala to observe endemic Hawaiian spiders. The highlight was a sighting of the famous Hawaiian "Happy Face" Spider. In the coming six weeks, Petra will visit South Africa, where she will attend two scientific meetings - the 5th African Arachnid Colloquium and the 15th Willi-Hennig Meeting, and she will spend several weeks collecting arachnids and myriapods in forests in Transvaal and the Cape Province.

FIALKOWSKI PRESENTS PROGRAMS ON URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

On October 24, Environmental Educator in Residence **Carol Fialkowski** (Office of Environmental and Conservation Programs) presented a session at the 23rd Natural Areas, 15th North American Prairie and Indiana Dunes Ecosystems Conference entitled "Educating Urban Audiences about Natural Areas: A Researched Model." Carol presented the research that formed the basis for Project Connect, a program recently submitted by The Field Museum to the Hughes Medical Institute's Museum Program. Also, at the North American Association of Environmental Education conference in early November, Carol co-presented a paper entitled "Guidelines for Environmental Education in Urban Settings" as part of the Environmental Education Summit. One of the outcomes of the Summit will be a collection of papers designed to provide background on the field of environmental education, suggest policy and guidelines in important areas, and delineate major goals and objectives for the field. Additionally Carol co-hosted the urban affinity lunch, co-chaired the annual meeting of the urban and multicultural commission for environmental education which she chairs and presented a session entitled "Environmental Education Evaluation: Multiple Strategies for Urban Audiences."

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Mary Ann Bloom, Education Department, was invited to be a participant in the Chicago Cultural Center's "Original Voices, Language of the Land," a series of panel discussions, lectures and performances that addressed the issues of indigenous cultures in contemporary society. Mary Ann was a panelist for the November 7 session, "Cultural Identity and Ownership."

Mary Ann Bloom
Coordinator, Education Department

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon.

Thank you!

In the last two weeks ninety Field Museum staff members received training on Internet and E-mail by New Horizons, computer training specialists. The Human Resources Department wishes to extend a huge thank you to all who contributed their time and effort to make this training a success! A special thank you to:

Liz Adams	**Peter Lowther**
Elsie Guy	**Maria Thomas**
Phil Hanson	**Tim Tryba**
Charles James	Engineering Department
Jim Koeppl	Housekeeping Department

Practice, practice, practice...

If you wish to practice what you learned in the Internet and E-mail training, or if you wish to learn the Internet on your own, two terminals are available to you to use at **The Harold Washington Library** *free of charge*!
A volunteer is there on Tuesdays to help you of you have any questions.
The terminals are located on the fifth floor of the Library.

The terminals are available on:

Monday	9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	- closed -

Also, Human Resources has an extra Internet training manual from New Horizons. You may check out this manual from the HR office to use on your own.

CREDIT UNION VISIT

A representative from Chicago First Credit Union will be in Picnic in the Field on Thursday, November 21, 1996 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The representative will be available to answer questions about new or existing accounts, take first-time enrollees, and assist with account changes. Please be sure to stop by! -- **Jennifer Noe**

MUSEUM AFFAIRS NEWS

EXHIBITS AND EDUCATION STAFF ATTEND ASTC CONFERENCE

Several members of the Exhibits and Education Departments attended the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, October 26 through 29. **Sheila Mutchler, Doug DeWitt, Brian Stacy, Bob Weiglein, Gene Dillenburg** (all from Exhibits) and **Kristie Webber** (Education) represented The Field Museum. The conference, "Touching Minds and Changing Futures," offered interesting sessions, tours of local museums, and opportunities to share ideas with colleagues from around the world. Kristie presented at a session entitled "Fee or Free? Programs and the Bottom Line." Other highlight sessions included "Thinking About Education: Goals in Exhibit Development," "A Letter to My Architect," "Neat Stuff!," and "A View From The Exhibit Floor: Front-Line Staff Speak Out."

Field Museum staff agreed that the most compelling part of the conference was an interactive immersion experience entitled "Stuck in the Pittsburgh Airport, Waiting for the Fog to Clear from O'Hare." Gene in particular was so fascinated by this installation, he spent five hours at the site! Fortunately, all our folks did eventually return home safely.

Several former Field Museum staff were also in attendance, including **Janet Kamien, Richard Duggan, Paul Martin,** and **Linda Schubert.** They send along their best wishes to all.

The **Exhibits Department** is unloading old photos and miscellaneous objects. These can be viewed in the old Exhibit Developers offices by the north skylight on the fourth floor, and will be made available to staff members for Museum use on Monday, November 18 through Wednesday, November 20 at 3:00 p.m. Please help yourself to any materials you wish for your Museum needs (including workspace decoration). Remaining items will be entered into a silent auction to take place Thursday, November 21 through Friday, November 22 at noon. Come up and write in your bids on all remaining items. Winners will be contacted and money collected Friday afternoon. Objects must be removed by 4:30 p.m. on Friday or arrangements made with **Susan Phillips.** All unclaimed items will be disposed of. If you have any questions call Susan (x515).

Employee Anniversaries -- November 1996

Anna Roosevelt	Anthropology	5 years
Ron Hall	Audio Visual Services	15 years
Derek McGlorthan	Security Services	15 years

SAVE A DATE
HOLIDAY FEST

This year's Holiday Fest (staff party) is on Friday, December 20, 1996 in Stanley Field Hall. You will be receiving your invitation soon. Please RSVP to **Maria Thomas** in the Human Resources Office (x356). Your guests are welcome (friends, family members, etc.). Guest admission is $5 per person -- please pay Maria (x356) in the Human Resources Office. Volunteers, independent contractors, and others affiliated with the Museum may come to the Fest by paying the $5 guest admission. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the 'fest'ivities this year!

AGAINST ALL ODDS

It would have been impossible to handle the thousands of calls coming into the Museum during the three days the automated system was down without the cooperation and patient understanding of the staff. A special thank you to all who answered their own phones.

Gerry Havranek

Last week we thanked Gerry and the staff who relieved her for their wonderful work. This week I want to also thank **Katie Davis** who provided Gerry with relief last Friday.

Jim Croft, Vice President for Finance & Administration

BIKE POLICY CLARIFICATION

In response to the concerns expressed by our bike commuters, the Facility Planning and Operations Office wants to reaffirm the Museum policy that those staff members who use their bikes for commuting to work at the Museum may continue to park their bikes in both designated bike parking locations -- the shipping dock and the Engineering room at the west entrance. But the same policy also requests that no bikes be left in storage in the Museum building. Please continue to commute on your bikes as before, but do not leave them here overnight, over the weekends or over the coming winter until the next biking season. Thank you for your cooperation.

Andy Pavasars, FP&O

Thanks!

I want to express my appreciation to everyone who made the 1996 Chicago Humanities Festival such a wonderful success! Over 1,300 guests attended seven different programs at the Museum on Saturday, November 9 and Sunday, November 10, 1996.

My special thanks to: Public Services and the departments of Audio Visual, Housekeeping, Security and Visitor Services; Facilities Planning and Operations and the departments of Engineering and Maintenance; Museum Affairs and the departments of Museum Stores and Special Events; Photography and Switchboard for your dedication and service.

Sarah Highstone, Development